

Letter Progress Report #9

Barry Drucker, COTR
Minerals Management Service
Procurement Operations Branch MS 2500
381 Elden Street
Herndon, Virginia
20170-4817

April 18, 2006

Contract No. 1435-01-04-34396

Dear Barry,

This Letter Progress Report (LPR) provides a summary of activities undertaken on the MMS study entitled *World-Wide Survey of Dredging Impacts on Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Analysis of Available Mitigation Measures to Protect and Preserve Resources* for the period February 18th 2006 through April 18th 2006.

Information is provided against the following headings.

- (1) status of deliverables;
- (2) budget status report summary;
- (3) problems encountered and resolution status; and
- (4) planned activities for the subsequent reporting period.

(1) Status of Deliverables

Task 1 (World-wide Literature Search):

As per Progress Report #8 - The world-wide literature search has been completed and a summary report produced. This will be included in the final project report as an Annex.

Task 2 (Government Regulations Identification).

The identification of government regulations relevant to marine sand mining has been completed and will be fully reported in the final project report.

Task 4 (Site Visits to Fishing, Industry and Government Interests).

Site visits to representatives of the fishing industry, dredging industry and government interests have been undertaken previously and reported in earlier progress reports.

Task 5 (Fieldwork aboard fishing vessels).

While extensive interviews have been carried out among U.S. fishermen, including at sea observations, no fieldwork aboard fishing vessels has been undertaken for this project in the UK during this reporting period. However, Dr. Petterson and EMU staff have conducted on-shore interviews with UK fishermen and EMU staff have extensive experience with fisherman interests, objections, and solutions concerning conflicts with offshore dredging operations, which will be incorporated into the draft and final reports.

Task 6 (Fieldwork aboard dredging vessels).

During this reporting period, John Petterson of IAI has, in collaboration with Barry Drucker, identified two candidate sites for the final analogue study. It is understood that Collier County, Florida (on the west coast of Florida) has been selected as the next case study, and primary data collection is scheduled for early next month (May, 2006). The County is currently dredging sand from a Federal site located 30 miles from the project site and placing it on the beach.

Task 7 (Draft Report)

During this reporting period, the draft report produced by Emu Ltd. which details issues related to the UK marine dredging industry and the HSB case study site was issued to MMS for comment. We understand that this has been reviewed by MMS staff.

(2) Budget Status Report Summary

Invoice #9 is attached. Please note that this again does not include any time incurred by IAI through this reporting period. John Petterson has informed us that costs incurred during the reporting period have been minor, that IAI costs remain within the original budget projection, and that outstanding IAI costs will be submitted during the subsequent invoicing period.

(3) Problems Encountered and Resolution Status

No problems have been encountered during this reporting period.

(4) Planned Activities

John Petterson has agreed to give a presentation in Florida on the current project. In terms of the Florida analogue site, field staff are available and plan to initiate primary data collection in Collier County in early May. It is envisaged that this final component will be completed within planned timescales and to budget.

We look forward to your review of this Letter Progress Report. Please let me know if additional information or clarification is required.

Yours Sincerely,

Bruce Tomlinson, Ph.D.
Program Manager

cc: Sharon Teger (CO, MMS Headquarters)